



COVER SHEET

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Editorial Comment for

The Queensland Surveyor

Feb 2002, by Robert Webb – QUT Surveying

Welcome to the first edition of The Queensland Surveyor for the year 2002. With the tremendous changes and activities occurring at many levels in 2001, we hope that year 2002 will be bigger and better than the year before and that the surveying practitioner can rise to the challenge of the goals that they set themselves.

Year 2002 Designations

The year 2002 has two significant attachments; firstly, Year 2002 has been designated as the International Year of Ecotourism (IYE) by the United Nations organisation as a focus in recognition of ecotourism's potential influences towards its convention on biodiversity. More details on this topic and influences and adventures of ecotourism in Australia are presented in this edition.

Secondly, Year 2002 in Australian has been designated Year of the Outback. The focus is on tourism and Australia's ability to capitalizing on its rural and regional strengths. The Year of the Outback aptly follows the Centenary of Federation, which has reflected on a relatively recent chapter of history, and the Olympic Games in Sydney, which celebrated the boundless capacities of a vibrant nation striding into the global stage.

Following on from this rural outback theme, The Queensland Surveyor journal cover has been assigned an earthy brown colour in recognition of survey and mapping activities in rural and regional Queensland. The young surveyors report includes a brief on some recent GPS surveys in central-west Queensland. We would encourage surveyors conducting rural surveys to forward some brief words on an interesting (or routine) boundary survey or other measurement activity. Remember, a picture can tell a thousand words, so take a camera with you when exploring the outback survey-related heritage of Queensland.

In This Edition

The Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Land Services Division, are calling for comment on a discussion paper "*Managing State Rural Leasehold Land*". The discussion paper has been released in an initial step towards developing a strategy for managing State rural leasehold land. The views of surveyors can be important in helping the Government to shape future directions for the efficient and effective management of rural leasehold land in Queensland. The discussion paper is designed to engage all stakeholders in the debate about the best approach to the future management of Queensland's rural leasehold estate. In particular, it explores the issues behind the emerging partnership between lessees and the government, and considers how sustainability objectives can be achieved by balancing economic, environmental and social needs. The focus of the discussion is on the 'big picture', its central theme being the achievement of sustainable management and use of State rural leasehold land.

This edition contains a very interesting article on professional ethics and some commentary on voluntary compliance to codes of practices, including ethical codes. Recent newspaper comments have indicated that compliance is going to become a rising agenda issue for federal government departments. This article is of interest to surveyors, including some of the candid conversations examples.

This year we have introduced a History Corner page to demonstrate the contributions of mathematicians and others to topics of some importance to surveyors and mapping specialists. These topics, biographies and summary articles should appeal to young surveyors keen to appreciate the efforts and contributions of forepersons in a particular field.

A short article is also presented on Learning Curves and how they are used in production and manufacturing industries. Two freeware softwares are mentioned and some concepts may be applicable to some survey practices. So, examine it and see if it is of application to your work-practices.

I would also like to draw your attention to the Centre of Australia information first presented on the AUSLIG web-site. A brief summary of five methods of determination is also included. Can you determine the centre of Queensland, just perhaps the centre of your local authority?

Conclusion

As this year progresses, I would strongly encourage you to GET and BE more involved in Surveying & Mapping activities and opportunities that present themselves. On behalf of the editorial committee, I trust members will have an entertaining and informative read with the first edition of 2002 Queensland Surveyor.